



Update April 2008

PORTLAND  
fellowship

## Dear Fellowship Partner:

As a confused teen, I looked everywhere for an answer to my unwanted same-sex attractions. Every time the homosexual issue was presented on television, radio, or in print my attention would go directly to **any** glimmer of hope for my struggles. Yet the consistent message was that I should accept and celebrate my sexuality the way it was. For me and for countless others that choice was not acceptable. But the search to find freedom was frustrating.

It wasn't until I disclosed with a fellow believer that I learned about a ministry where people were offering the hope I was seeking. My friend had recently heard about Portland Fellowship through a sermon at her church. Although I never had a chance to meet the person who gave that sermon, it was that informed pastor that pointed me toward life and hope.

Over the years I have been asked by many people, "Other than prayer and financial support, how can I help make a difference for those who struggle?" We know you have something personal and real to share with other believers about the important message of Portland Fellowship. But at times you might have lacked the avenues to communicate your passion. With that in mind, we would like to introduce the Hope Initiative: [www.pfhope.com](http://www.pfhope.com). This interactive website will allow you to contact your own church and/or other churches with significant tools to equip the body of Christ.

Together, with your personal message and our resources we can encourage churches in the Portland/Vancouver area with this life changing message of hope and transformation.

Participation in this initiative is simple. To start, go online to [www.pfhope.com](http://www.pfhope.com). On the front page of this website you will find the items you and I will send to the church or churches of your choosing. This may be your church and/or a church God has impressed upon your heart to contact. We will send to the pastor(s) you have selected the book "**Portraits of Freedom.**" This book will provide personal stories of sexually broken lives redeemed by Jesus. We will also send the pastor a copy of the Interactive CD ROM, **The Map**, containing a practical curriculum, video testimonies, and video Q&A to help a person begin to navigate through their journey to sexual and relational wholeness. Included in this package will be a **\$5.00 Starbucks gift card**. This gesture is intended to personally encourage the pastor to pause and reflect on information about Portland Fellowship and the items we have sent, and finally, we will include a handwritten **letter from you**. This is a very important part of the project. Your insight, experience and personal connection with Portland Fellowship will speak volumes to the leadership of the church. We will provide you with guidelines and sample letters to help you write a simple one-page letter.



Please join us at  
The Hope Initiative  
[www.pfhope.com](http://www.pfhope.com)

"He has sent me to bind  
up the brokenhearted to  
proclaim liberty to captives,  
and freedom to prisoners."

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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In order for us to accomplish all this we will ask that you submit \$25.00 with a letter for each church you choose. The money will cover the book, the Map, printed material, the Starbucks card, packaging and shipping. The [www.pfhope.com](http://www.pfhope.com) site will walk you through this easy process. You simply sign in, choose one or more churches from a list, and then print your sample letters to help you hand-write your personal letter to the pastor. A confirmation email will be sent to your inbox which will give you further instructions. You will even have an opportunity to refer a friend to participate in the **Hope Initiative**. Your email information will be kept confidential and private.

As we hear back from the church(es) you choose, we will keep you informed about their response(s) and also give you an opportunity to connect with the church(es) and continue the conversation.

**HOPE**  
initiative

I'm excited to partner with you as you prayerfully participate in this amazing project. Together, our efforts will see many more people learn about this powerful ministry God has used to accomplish his work for over 20 years.

Serving Him with a genuine joy,

  
Jason Thompson  
Executive Director

**"Draw near to God and  
He will draw near to you."**

James 4: 8

The **2008 Portland Fellowship Retreat** was a rich time of living out this scripture. More than fifty of us spent our entire weekend reading, praying and learning from the book of James. We all became deeply aware of the fact that God wants all of our lives. Living out a holy life is an encompassing integration of our purity, finances, words, thoughts, actions and faith. And as that happens we find God fully present with us through it all. He gives good gifts, heals our ills, advocates for us, listens to us, and embraces us in his powerful grace.

Thank you for praying for us and with us during the weekend. The impact was significantly noticed and appreciated.

### Prayer

*Please pray:*

...for the men and women applying for the 2008-2009 *Upper Room Program*.

We ask that God will give us the wisdom to prayerfully consider who He is inviting to be part of our leadership training internship this fall.

...with thanksgiving for God's countless blessings on us as a staff. Our deep dependence on him is the only source for the hope we proclaim and practice.

... with us as hundreds of ministry partners consider which churches they will reach out to thru the Hope Initiative.

...as *Taking Back Ground* begins again this month. Ask God to continue to bring healing, hope and victory in the lives of each participant.

**portland fellowship** is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services, and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

### Events Calender

**april 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

*Taking Back Ground*

Discipleship group for men and women struggling with same-sex attraction. Call office for details. 7 p.m.

**april 18**

*Family and Friends Group*

For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement, and support.

*Third Friday of each month: 7 p.m.*

**april 11-14**

*WorldVision Experience: AIDS (hosted by Sunset Presbyterian Church)*

A powerful interactive walk thru of an African village with a view to how AIDS is impacting daily life. The exhibit is free but time-specific tickets are required. Please see their website for more information  
[www.sunsetpres.org/experience](http://www.sunsetpres.org/experience)

**april 19**

*Annual PF House and Yard Spring Cleaning*

In partnership with Hinson Baptist Church, we spruce up the house inside and out. Call if you'd like to help.

Check website for additional updates at [www.portlandfellowship.com](http://www.portlandfellowship.com)